



Aspen *Environmental Group*

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E ATLANTIC-DEL MAR REINFORCEMENT PROJECT

To: Jensen Uchida, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: November 23, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #31: November 13, 2005 – November 19, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Heather Stiles

Aspen Environmental Monitor (EM), Heather Stiles, toured the Atlantic-Del Mar Project location on November 18. The PG&E Environmental Inspector (EI), Shannon Ceresola, was on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and other permit requirements. She is conducting environmental trainings for all new crew members. The PG&E EI also serves as a project biologist conducting California tiger salamander (CTS) aestivation surveys, on-going bird surveys, as well as installation of resource flagging and managing the installation and maintenance of sediment controls.

OVERHEAD:

Summary of Activity:

All overhead construction including pole, foundation, and line stringing work is being done by PG&E. The only remaining pole areas where work has yet to occur are Transition Poles #9 and #10. Work at the transition poles is scheduled to occur concurrent with the underground construction activities. The foundation work for all of the poles is complete. All of the poles have been placed on the foundations with the exception of Poles #1, #2 and #3. These poles will be erected when the adjacent lines at the Del Mar Substation are de-energized. The PG&E crew has completed all current work and has left the site. The PG&E EI inspected existing erosion controls including those near vernal pool areas. Per the PG&E EI, all inspected erosion controls remain in functional condition and do not require maintenance.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

Previously, the PG&E EI evaluated the construction areas at all project pole sites for potential burrows for California tiger salamander (CTS) in compliance with Mitigation Measure APM 7-11. No burrows were located in the work areas, except for near the Pole #9 area. However, the area was resurveyed by an expert and the burrows turned out to be very shallow and assessed to be inadequate habitat for CTS.

The CPUC EM observed the current overhead construction activities to be complete and were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements. Erosion controls are inspected weekly and remain in place around sensitive resource areas adjacent to the construction areas.

UNDERGROUND:

Summary of Activity:

The underground work has been contracted to Wilson Construction. Wilson has subcontracted work to Zayas Construction. The horizontal bore work has been subcontracted to Cherrington.

During the subject week, crews backfilled over the conduit installation from Stations 36+40 to 38+90. Backfill has not been conducted through the Amtrak parking lot at the corner of Rocklin Road and Railroad Avenue, and the area remains covered with steel plates.

During the previous weeks, trenching was initiated at three different areas. However, unstable materials were encountered that were not conducive to providing a stable trench for conduit. Trenching was halted at these locations until a method to stabilize the bank is determined. The crews moved onto other areas.

North of Midas Boulevard, crews excavated and installed Vault 4 during the previous week. Conduit tie-ins were installed and backfill with a slurry mix will occur next week.

Crews potholed for a waterline and telephone line near Station 60+67. The lines were both identified and trenching commenced in the area.

Boring operations commenced on Friday of the subject week. In preparation for the bore, weeds were cleared from Station 0+00 to the staging area near the Kinder Morgan Tank Farm. Topsoil from Wetland #2 was salvaged prior to the commencement of the bore. The bore crew also installed visquene/plastic sheeting under all of the bore equipment to catch any potential leaks. A continual frac-out occurred in Wetland #2 soon after boring operations began on Friday (see Figure 1). Per the Army Corps permit and mitigation agreements, PG&E is allowed to take Wetland #2. The frac-out area was isolated with hay bales; however, a vac-truck was not on site at the time that the frac-out occurred and had to be dispatched to the bore location. Two and a half hours later the vac-truck arrived at the location and the bentonite was removed from the wetland area. A vac-truck should have been readily available at the bore site and the lack is being noted as a concern.

On Saturday, a second frac-out occurred 100 feet off of centerline in Wetland #3. The mud was expelled into an area of standing water. The drilling mud rose to the surface and was immediately identified and removed. Impacts to Wetland #3 are not covered by the Army Corps permits. Per Essex, both the Army Corp of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the frac-outs occurring in the resources. A retroactive permit will be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers and Essex Environmental will be filing an incident report.

Far Western has been conducting the project cultural monitoring. The underground work encounters several culturally sensitive areas. A cultural monitor must be present for work in all culturally sensitive areas as specified in Mitigation Measure C-1 and the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan. Per the PG&E EI, during the subject week, no excavation work occurred in culturally sensitive areas and Far Western was not required to be on-site.

All open excavations, including trench line, are being covered with steel plates or chain link fence and topped with construction fencing at the end of the work day. Each morning, crews walk the excavations to check for trapped wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

All new equipment has been inspected for leaks as they are brought onto the site.

Sediment controls and exclusion signs and fencing were inspected and/or maintained around sensitive resource areas including seasonal drainages.

In addition to the regular environmental training, the PG&E EI conducted a tailgate prior to boring operations to discuss the bore plans, the Frac-out Contingency Plan, and all applicable mitigation measure requirements, including schedule.

The boring operation was determined to be in compliance with all applicable regulations and permits, according to the CPUC EM. Containment around all associated machinery and the entrance pit for the bore was satisfactory. As described above, the vac-truck was not on-site when the first frac-out occurred. According to the project Frac-out Contingency Plan, the vac-truck must be readily available to the site

if/when a frac-out occurs. However, it took 2.5 hours for the truck to arrive. This weekly report notes this delay as concerning.

On November 19, a second frac-out occurred 100 feet off of centerline in Wetland #3. The mud was expelled into an area of standing water. The drilling mud rose to the surface and was immediately identified and removed. Impacts to Wetland #3 are not covered by the Army Corps permits. Per Essex, both the Army Corp of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were notified of the frac-outs occurring in the resources. A retroactive permit will be obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers and Essex Environmental will be filing an incident report.

The CPUC EM observed that the underground construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the MND and other permit requirements.

As presented in Table 1, one NCR has been issued for the project to date.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 11-23-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 2)	6-23-05	PG&E contractors removed 22 large trees without notifying the project EI and without conducting avian nest surveys prior to removal, which is a violation of Mitigation Measure B-3 and APM 7-6. Additionally, the trees were removed outside of the allowable window of November 1 through February 15 as established in Mitigation Measure B-3 and overland travel was used instead of existing access roads.	PG&E has conducted post removal surveys at the tree removal sites and surrounding area, and supplied the CPUC with results on July 17, 2005. PG&E also notified CDFG.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

Table 2 presents the NTPs issued by the CPUC for the Atlantic–Del Mar Project to date. No additional NTPs are anticipated.

TABLE 2
NOTICES TO PROCEED
(Updated 11-23-05)

NTP #	Date Issued	Description
1	11-03-03	Mobilization within the Atlantic and Del Mar Substations, and overhead installation from the Del Mar Substation to the railroad right-of-way (northern 0.25 miles), City of Rocklin.
2	3-08-05	Construction of the remaining overhead portion (approximately 4 miles) and the underground portion (approximately 1.3 miles) of the Atlantic–Del Mar Reinforcement Project, within the Cities of Roseville and Rocklin in Placer County.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

No new variance requests were submitted during the subject week. Table 3 presents the Variance Requests reviewed to date.

TABLE 3
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
 (Updated 11-23-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	4-19-05	Modify the implementation of Applicant Proposed Measure 7.2 at Wetlands #2 and #30 to allow the use of non-rubber tired vehicles and to allow discretionary re-fueling on the project right-of-way.	Approved	5-2-05
2	5-19-05	Allow overland travel from an existing access road to the Pole 3/19 site.	Approved	5-25-05
3	6-28-05	Allow specific tree removals outside of the allowable window of November 1 to February 15 as outlined in Mitigation Measure B-3.	Approved	7-7-05
4	6-28-05	Allow movement of track and rubber tired equipment through approximately 15 feet by 100 feet of Cultural Resource site Y2.	Approved	7-7-05
5	9-2-05	Remove either a berm or oak tree to open up space needed for boring operations south of Sunset Ave. Use of an existing disturbed staging area. String and pull conduit through a delineated wetland area.	Approved	9-8-05

UPCOMING ITEMS:

The HDD mobilized to the site and boring operations commenced during the subject week. The drill is expected to emerge on the opposite side of Sunset Avenue early next week. A forward ream will be used to widen the tunnel.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

Per Essex, the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game were appropriately notified of the frac-out in Wetland # 3.

Per Essex, a City of Rocklin toured the project site and met with the PG&E EI.

Photographs



Figure 1- Frac-out in Wetland #2, November 18, 2005.